

## Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00  
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01  
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-09 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 SMS-01 /161 W  
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P 211500Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6494  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5100

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PLOS MO  
SUBJECT: LOS: MOROCCAN VIEWS ON RESUMED SEVENTH SESSION AND THE  
CONTINENTAL SHELF

REF STATE 188840

1. EMBOFF, HAVING SENT AIDE MEMOIRE REFLECTING POINTS IN REFTEL,  
CALLED ON MFA LEGAL AND TREATY AFFAIRS DIVISION DIRECTOR AUGUST 15.
2. IRISH FORMULA. GHARBI BEGAN HIS COMMENTARY ON AIDE MEMOIRE BY  
LAUGHINGLY REMARKING THAT THE US SEEMED TO BE TRYING TO GET ALL  
IT COULD OUT OF THE TALKS BEFORE THEY FINISHED. TURNING MORE  
SERIOUS, HE DESCRIBED THE IRISH FORMULA AS A "GREEDY" POSITION  
HELD BY THE WEST AND PREDICTED IT WOULD NOT OBTAIN THE NECESSARY  
SUPPORT TO CARRY. HE REMARKED THAT THE RECENT DISCOVERY OF OIL IN  
THE SEABED HAD UNDERCUT MUCH OF THE LOGIC WE HAD ADVANCED TO DEFEND  
OUR POSITION IN FAVOR OF THE IRISH FORMULA.
3. A COMPROMISE ON THE SHELF WAS POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, FOR MOROCCO,  
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A COMPROMISE MUST INCLUDE TWO POINTS: FIRST, THE NATIONS WHICH  
HAVE SIGNED THE GENEVA AGREEMENTS ON THE SHELF WOULD HAVE TO ABANDON  
THOSE ACCORDS IF A NEW AGREEMENT WERE TO TAKE EFFECT. SECONDLY,  
THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE SOME KIND OF COMMON FUND ESTABLISHED TO SAFE-  
GUARD THE INTERESTS OF THE LANDLOCKED. THESE LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES  
WERE THE KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE, GHARBI REMARKED,  
AND THE US SHOULD PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THEM IN ORDER TO BRING THEM

ALONG. THEY HAD RAISED A LOT OF ISSUES AT THE JULY OAU KHARTOUM MEETING AND HAD FORCED MEMBERS' AGREEMENT FOR AN AFRICAN LOS MEETING IN FEBRUARY (WHICH GHARBI DOUBTED WOULD TAKE PLACE DUE TO LACK OF ENTHUSIASM BY COASTAL STATES).

4. COMMON FUND. AS TO THE COMMON FUND, MOROCCO WOULD SUPPORT, SUBJECT TO SOME MODIFICATION, THE PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY THE NEPALESE DELEGATION AT THE GENEVA SESSION LAST MAY. GHARBI HOPED THAT THE US WOULD ALSO DO SO.

5. STRAITS. GHARBI REMARKED THAT THE SOVIETS HAD BEGUN TO "GET EXICTED" OVER THE STRAITS. EARLY ON IN THE TALKS THE SOVIETS HAD ASSUMED THAT THE WEST WOULD CARRY THE BALL AND THAT THEY COULD STAND BACK AND APPEAR REASONABLE. HOWEVER, THE US'S SILENCE ON THE QUESTION APPEARED TO BE BOTHERING THEM, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SPECIFY HOW. AS FOR THE GOM, GHARBI REPEATED THAT ALL IT SOUGHT WERE "OPTIONAL" TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS SUCH AS THOSE WHICH EXISTED IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL, AS WELL AS SOME KINDS OF GUARANTEES FOR INDEMINIFICATION IN THE EVENT OF ACCIDENTS. IT DID NOT SEEK CONTROL IN THE STRAITS. IT WAS HOPED THAT THE US AND OTHERS WOULD EVENTUALLY HELP TO FUND THE NECESSARY MONITORING EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES TO PERMIT IT TO PERFORM ITS ROLE.

6. GHARBI WILL HEAD GOM DELEGATION TO RESUMED SEVENTH SESSION.

7. COMMENT: EMBOFF SENSED A DEFINITE SOFTENING IN GHARBI'S  
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REMARKS ON GOM'S STRAITS POSITION, WHCIH HITHERTO HAD TENDED TO STRESS ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES AGAINST USERS RATHER THAN OPTIONAL NATURE OF ARRANGEMENTS IN CHANNEL.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONTINENTAL SHELF, LAW OF THE SEA, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETINGS  
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**Draft Date:** 21 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PLOS, MO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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